REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment cancels claims 1-10 in favor of new claims 11-20 while removing reference characters, placing the claims in compliance with U.S. practice, and eliminating multiple dependencies.

Early and favorable consideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: October 6, 2005

James E. Ledbetter Registration No. 28,732

 $\{a,a_{i},a_{i},b_{i}\} \in \mathcal{A}_{i} \cap \mathcal{A}_{i}$

JEL/spp

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